

City of Saint Paul - Youth Job Corps

Background

The Youth Job Corps program (YJC) strives to provide opportunities for at risk youth (ages 14-21) to continue their education in settings where they can simultaneously earn wages to support their families and themselves. These highly motivated and driven participants come from a variety of backgrounds, reflecting the diversity of the communities around them.

One-Time Stimulus Funding

In 2009, Ramsey County was the recipient of an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant for youth employment, and through a partnership with the YWCA, the City of Saint Paul worked to provide additional summer employment opportunities for at-risk youth between the ages of 14-24. To target the older youth (ages 18-24), the Youth Job Corps Young Adult (YJC-YA) program was developed with purpose of professional development and educational advancement. Some of the newly developed opportunities included promotional and marketing work for local businesses, Cosmetology Assistant, Office Assistant, Inventory Assistant, Customer Service Representative, and Office Receptionist.

Partnerships

Some of the new partnerships for the YJC-YA program included Manpower, Health Partners, Great River Greening, Mentoring Young Adults, Ramsey County Public Works, The Q Kindness Café, Saint Paul College, Saint Paul Public Schools Dept. of Business and Financial Affairs, Selby Wines and Spirits, Transformation Hair Salon, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Academy.

Budget

The Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) is an annual funding source for the YJC program. Along with a number of other reductions in the state budget, the YJC funding was reduced from the expected annual amount of \$600,000 to \$570,000 for the 2009-10 funding cycle. The YJC program was able to offset the reduction in the DEED funding for the summer of 2009 by the receipt of the one-time American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant funding. The one-time infusion of funds from the ARRA allowed YJC to maintain and actually increase the number of youth served with summer employment. This one-time funding source is not expected to be in the 2010-11 funding cycle, so the YJC program may face future reductions.

2009 YJC Funding

CDBG	\$400,000
State	\$570,000 – Reflects a \$30,000 Budget reduction for 2009
ARRA	\$216,773 – One time funding
Total	\$1,186,773

2009 Program Statistics

YJC Applicants:

Eligible Applicants: 1,310
Ineligible Applicants: 408
Total YJC Applicants: 1,718
Attended Orientations: 970
Accepted Summer Employment: **765**

YJC-YA Applicants

Eligible Applicants: 158
Ineligible applicants: 24
Total YJC-YA Applications: 182
Attended Orientations: 158
Accepted Summer Employment: **158**

YJC & YJC-YA Total Eligible Applicants: **1,468**
YJC & YJC-YA Total Ineligible applicants: **432**
YJC & YJC-YA Total Applicants: **1,900**
YJC & YJC-YA Total Attended Orientation: **1,128**
YJC & YJC-YA Total Youth Employed: **923**
YJC & YJC-YA Total Hours Worked: **129,516**



Alston Riley, EMS Academy graduate - holding a childhood picture of himself dressed as a firefighter

Ethnicity Stats

YJC Ethnicity Stats

Black/African American Persons: 341
White Persons: 65
Asian Persons: 262
American Indian/Alaskan Native Persons: 8
Hispanic Persons: 27
Other Multi Ethnic Persons: 62
Total Ethnic YJC Stats: 765

Total YJC & YA Ethnicity Stats

Black/African American Persons: 421
White Persons: 80
Asian Persons: 295
American Indian/Alaskan Native Persons: 8
Hispanic Persons: 45
Other Multi Ethnic Persons: 74
Total Ethnic YJC & YJC-YA Stats: 923

Total Ethnic Participation %

Black/African American: 46%
Asian: 32%
White, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan Native Person or Other Multi-Ethnic Persons: 22%

YJC-YA Ethnicity Stats

Black/African American Persons: 80
White Persons: 15
Asian Persons: 33
American Indian/Alaskan Native Persons: 0
Hispanic Persons: 18
Other Multi Ethnic Persons: 12
Total Ethnic YJC-YA Stats: 158



Mayor Chris Coleman and youth from the Mentoring Young Adults Program

Examples of YJC Summer Projects

35 lbs of lake shore Litter cleanup @ Lake Phalen
20 houses rehabbed at the Wildlife Rehab Center
Created mosaics with the artist Sharra Frank
Held public performances of self poetry and prose
Created promotional videos for the SPPL

Examples YJC-YA Summer Projects

Provided child care assistance for Project Homeless Connect
Designed T-shirts for the 2010 Census
Certified 10 young adults as EMT's
Developed marketing and promotion strategies
Presented to 3M/Others -"How to engage youth to succeed"

Program Highlights

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Academy

The EMS Academy provides a unique opportunity for at-risk young adults to serve their community. Students accepted into the academy are given the chance to earn wages while being trained, something that is often a financial road block to furthering their professional career. Once they've graduated, the students fill the void of minimal diverse Emergency Medical Technicians in their communities. The added benefit of some of the students' bilingual skills is invaluable to fire departments and the health care field. The 10-week program pays each student \$7.50 an hour, for 25 hours a week. This provides a head start on filling their needs. Not only does this program educate and financially contribute to these students, it gives them the confidence in skills that are valuable to the community.

Unique Story

24 year-old single mother Kenyatta Foster had her heart set on being accepted into the EMS program. After not being selected as part of that year's class, Kenyatta kept pushing and took a different position doing promotional work for a local café. Kenyatta's hard work prompted some members of the public to contact her employer to vocally recognize this young woman's talents. Kenyatta was soon accepted into the EMS academy during her second attempt and is now a successful working mother.

East Side Circulator

The East Side Circulator gives participants the chance to interact with younger youth in a setting where they can lead by example. The East Side Circulator (along with the West Side Circulator) provides free transportation to youth who would otherwise have limited means to participate in local programs. The Circulator stops at recreation centers, libraries, community centers and non-profits. YJC provides additional staffing to help keep the shuttles and younger members of their community safe.